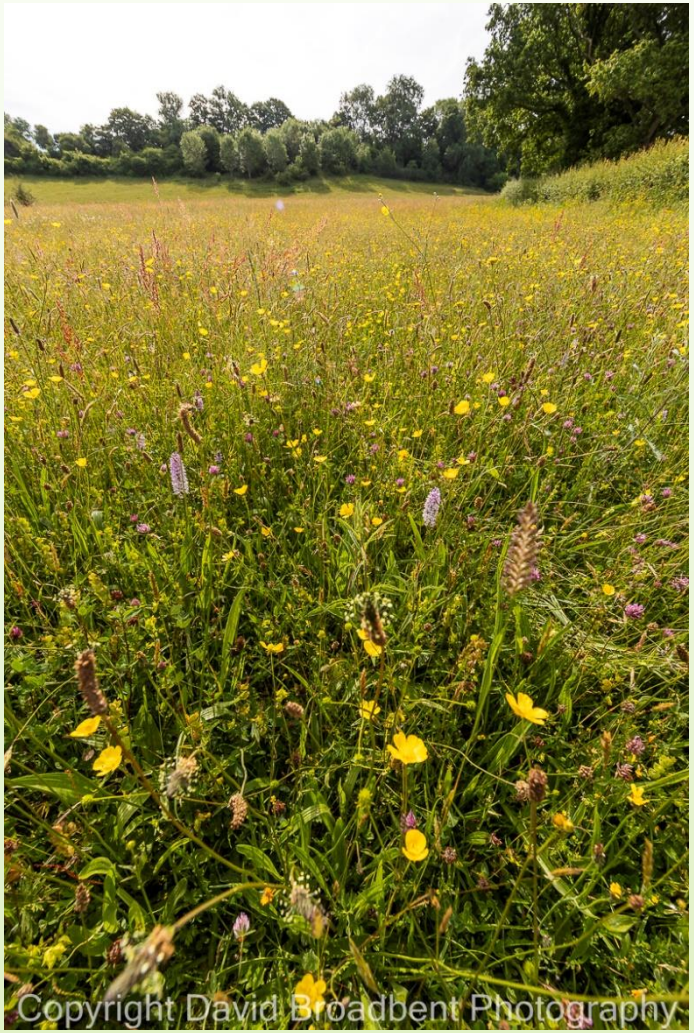
Monmouthshire Meadows Group

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2022 AGM
- Chair's and Treasurer's reports
- Election of committee
- Questions & any other business
- Break
- Talks: Ian Rabjohns and Roger Ruston
- Q&A/Discussion
- SUPPER



Crosshands Meadow

Our Reserves

- Wet Meadow – after bureaucratic shenanigans we now have two ponds
  - thanks to Dwr Cymru Biodiversity Fund and the Wye Valley AONB Sustainable Development Fund
- Ida's Meadow – battling Japanese Knotweed with the help of AONB Wye Valley Invasive Species Project
- Kingcoed Meadows – Welsh Mountain sheep from Ystradfellte graze in winter. Local contractor takes hay in summer



Surveys and Practical Work

- Steph, Elsa, Sheelagh and Wendy
- Over 35 surveys of new members and some revisits
  - Slightly less than last year
- Wide variety, many full of interest
- Work parties with Gwent Wildlife Trust and Wye Valley AONB volunteers at Wet Meadow



Last Year's Open Meadows

- Lower Pantygoida and Upper Red House Farm
- Broom House and Cross Hands
- Thanks to hosts
  - Sally and Kevin Jones
  - Teona Dorrien-Smith
  - Susan and Partrick Harrington
  - Philip Morrison
- Also to Andy Karran of Gwent Wildlife Trust and Wendy Tyler-Batt for flower ID walks



Other Activities in 2022

- Stalls – Bee Festival, Wye July, Chepstow Show, ACE Climate Festival, Monmouth Seed Swap
- Scything Courses at Llanover House and Rockfield (thanks to Elizabeth Murray & Judith Carruthers)
- Other courses from Ian Rabjohns, Steph Tyler, Plantlife
- Autumn Social – Pip Morrison and Wendy Tyler-Batt at Llandogo Village Hall
- Fungi Walk – Elsa Wood and Jon Dunkelman at Wet Meadow



Jacinth and Jemima

- With aging ponies and their carers it was time for the ponies to be moved on
- Perfect solution with GWT looking for some grazing ponies



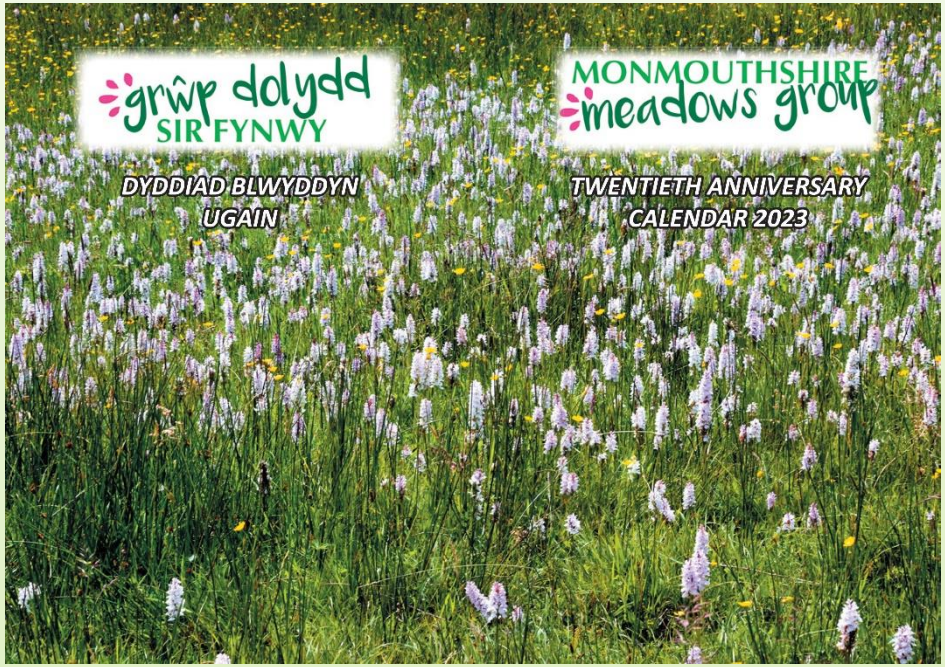
Coming Up This Year

- Open Meadows at Trostrey and Gwehelog (between Raglan and Usk)
  - Full day on Sunday 11th June
  - Check web site for details
- More training courses
  - Flower Id (Steph) – now full
  - Scything at Ty Mawr convent with Andrea Gilpin 26 or 27 Sept
- Stalls at Wye July, ACE Festival
- Already happened
  - Chepstow Walking Festival meadows walk



Our 20th Anniversary

- It is MMG's 20th birthday
- Started with the lovely calendar that you should have all received. It is a generic year calendar so you can use it any year. Thank you to Pam for putting this together.
- On 29th July we are having a party, with thanks to Laura Tenison owner of Wern-y-Cwm Farm. Do come!



Trevor Evans MBE

- Our long-standing president and renowned botanist sadly passed away in January
- His seminal book *The Flora of Monmouthshire* published 2007, the result of many years recording
- For many years Chairman of Gwent Wildlife Trust Conservation Committee
- A founding member and President of the Chepstow Society
- Received an MBE aged 87 from the Queen for his services to conservation and wildlife in Monmouthshire



Finance and Membership 2022-23

Balance

Statement of Financial Accounts: 2022-23

Cash accounting basis

		Memo: 2021-22	
Opening bank balance (at 1 April 2022)	**£ 58,978.32**	1 April 2021:	**£ 51,188.85**
Total Receipts	£ 23,613.83		£ 14,387.04
Total Expenditures	£ 19,021.68		£ 6,597.57
Net Surplus	£ 4,592.15		£ 7,789.47
Closing bank balance (at 31 Mar 2023)	**£ 63,570.47**	31 Mar 2022:	**£ 58,978.32**

Receipts

	2022-23		Memo: 2021-22	
Membership Subscriptions	£ 4,299.00		£ 4,122.20	
Donations	£ 1,486.00		£ 300.00	
HMRC Gift Aid	£ 875.55		£ 809.83	
Wales Rural Payments	£ 3,270.40		£ 3,225.95	
Grazing payments	£ 375.00		£ 770.00	
Events	£ 1,861.11		£ 360.00	
Sales	£ 325.60		£ 848.75	
Grants	£ 8,730.00		£ 1,519.30	
Wayleave payments	£ 10.33		£ 10.23	
Interest	£ 158.74		£ 1.74	
Restricted funds:				
Grassland Fungi Book Sales	£ 2,222.10		£ 2,419.04	
Total Receipts		**£ 23,613.83**		**£ 14,387.04**

33 new members last year. At 31st March: 256 sites, 320 members. Membership figure includes additional amounts donated

Expenditure

	2022-23	Memo: 2021-22
Insurance	£ 80.40	£ 417.69
Pony costs	£ 308.58	£ 188.41
Meadow Survey costs	£ 295.00	£ 238.00
Meadow Maintenance work	£ 420.00	£ 954.17
Meadow Equipment (including Ponds)	£ 12,398.99	£ 784.50
Mowing Equipment & Maintenance	£ 402.05	£ 14.88
Wet Meadow rent	£ 1,520.00	£ 1,520.00
Anniversary Calendar	£ 1,748.85	£ -
Events	£ 1,691.82	£ 1,660.00
IT/Website & Admin	£ 95.99	£ 221.92
Printing	£ 60.00	£ 58.00
Grassland Fungi Book 2nd Edition	£ -	£ 540.00
Total Expenditures	**£ 19,021.68**	**£ 6,597.57**

Election of the Committee

- Continuing members
  - Steph Tyler – honorary president
  - Rachel Morgan – chair
  - David Llewellyn – treasurer
  - Clare Adamson
  - Judith Carruthers
  - Clare Catto
  - Steph Poulter
  - Dick Coates – warden, Wet Meadow
  - Marilyn Dunkelman – membership secretary
  - Pam Manfield – minutes secretary

- New members joining us
  - Teona Dorien-Smith
  - Maggie Hamlen

- Retiring (with thanks!)
  - Sarah Cheese

As per our constitution clause 13: each of the charity trustees shall retire from office with effect from the conclusion of the AGM next after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that AGM.



Thank You!!

ANY QUESTIONS?